



CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

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Falls Church Program Alleviates Storm Water Runoff Problems

Work is underway on a program in the City of Falls Church to mitigate problems caused by storm water runoff with innovative low-impact development (LID) practices. LID practices and natural landscaping helps protect the local watershed, local streams and the Chesapeake Bay by reducing the pollutants carried by storm water runoff. The program, funded in part by a Water Quality Improvement Fund grant from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, includes planting rain gardens, installing porous pavement on a trail, and placing cisterns and rain gardens at an elementary school.

One of these projects nearing completion is a public-private rain garden at a residence in the 500 block of Hillwood Avenue. The location in a highly visible residential area and provides an opportunity for the public to see a rain garden and learn more about how it helps protect the watershed.

Another project underway is the installation of four cisterns and two rain gardens at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School on South Oak Street. These are designed to mitigate specific storm water runoff problems that result in pooling on the school lawn and soil erosion. Additionally, the rainwater collected in the cisterns can be used to irrigate nearby trees, shrubs and other plants in the new rain garden. Students and teachers will have an opportunity to participate in development of the rain gardens and to learn about the prevention of water pollution right outside their classroom windows. For more information visit <http://www.fallschurchva.gov/Content/Docs/RainGardensProposal.pdf?cnlid=2923>.

The City is also working on creating a wet meadow at the Chesterbrook Pumping Station on Kirby Road in McLean. The first phase will begin this fall and will include planting the upper area of the meadow in coordination with the Chesterbrook Elementary School. This will be the "hands on" portion of a storm water management education session for 4th graders. The site will eventually become a permanent outdoor education classroom for the students and include paths, benches and instructional signs.

The first low impact development projects completed under this grant were the construction of a porous trail on the Fire Department property off Washington Street and the installation of two cisterns at the City property yard.

Upcoming projects include the installation of a rain garden at the lower intersection of Buxton Road and Tyson Drive and a second in the City right of way on Lincoln Avenue.

For more information about the Stormwater Runoff Mitigation Program funded by a Department of Conservation and Recreation Water Quality Improvement Funds grant contact Shirley Street at sstreet@fallschurchva.gov or 703-248-5105.